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State of Emergency ongoing in Minden

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Sisters Maeve and Lucy Tytler venture down Anson Street in Minden with their mom, Kiara. The family just moved to the community, and are experiencing their first major flood. /submitted

Sandbags are heavy.

That's not how you're supposed to start an article.

For the most part, we write our stories following Canadian Press guidelines. Every week, I am looking up best practices and professional preferences.

But when the community calls a State of Emergency, all formalities go out the window.

Meetings are cancelled, organized events postponed. Strangers become friends, friends become family.

This was how I spent the past week, knee-deep in water in the heart of Minden Hills. I stocked sand, talked to neighbours, and learned, very quickly, that sandbags are heavy.

On Tuesday, April 14 at 12:45 p.m., the Township of Minden Hills officially declared a State of Emergency. "This decision comes as the water level on the Gull River is increasing," reads the press release, "and the forecasted weather over the next five to 10 days, which is calling for continued rain and warmer temperatures."

Bob Carter, the mayor of Minden Hills, noted that the deluge of water can be credited to precipitation coming in the form of thunderstorms. He met with me, outside the front of the township building, mere minutes before he pulled the trigger on the declaration of the State of Emergency last Tuesday. He needed some air, he said; stress pulling at the creases around his eyes. "If there was two feet of room for water at the other end," he said, "we lost over a foot in one day."

Carter shared that when a declaration is made that activates emergency response, the township has access to services and support at varying levels, including from provincial organizations and the Red Cross.

While Minden is no stranger to emergency situations, with a record-breaking ice storm hitting just last year that downed trees and power lines across the region, Carter said that the pace of floods hit differently. "It's a little like watching a train wreck," he said. "You know it's happening, but there's not much we can do about it."

And the rain kept coming. "It's been intense and physical in a way I didn't quite expect," said Kiara Sexton, who moved to her home on Anson Street in 2024. "I've spent the past two days sandbagging almost constantly, trying to stay ahead of the water. There's a kind of

see WATERS page 2

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A truck attempts to get through the waters on Anson Street. The road was closed with the exception of local traffic as of April 15. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

The iconic chairs on the Gull River; the widely accepted water gauge by locals. Photo taken on April 16, 2026.

Waters rise across multiple parts of county

from page 1

adrenaline that comes with it. You're watching levels, checking pumps, making small decisions over and over again that feel very consequential."

By April 15, the township released a second press release, notifying the public of nearly 20 Minden roads that were either closed off, or offering limited access.

And the waters were high across the county. County Road 6, also known as Eagle Lake Road, just off Kennisis Lake Road, suffered a collapsed culvert with rushing waters, Ritchie Falls Road had a number of overflowing ditches, saturating the driving areas, and County Road 1, that spans between Haliburton and Minden, saw waters nearly spilling over the edges of the ditches near the Pinestone Resort and Conference Centre.

"The roads department stopped in yesterday, expressing concerns," said Collin Burke, the creative director of Pinestone, when we spoke on April 15. "We removed barriers from the big culvert. Water levels dipped in the afternoon, but this morning into early afternoon, they have continued to rise."

Highlands East shared a warning late last week that Contau Lake Road is closed at Irondale Road due to high waters, with access available from Gooderham only. In addition, Community Centre Road and Gooderham Park were closed due to flooding.

The Highlands East Mayor and the Warden of Haliburton County, Dave Burton, took to social media over the weekend, noting his thanks for the community support during the trying time. "A special thank you goes out to the remarkable community of volunteers, including young students, cadets, business owners, and helpers coming to lend a hand from out of town - who have stepped up to assist with sandbagging, staffing evacuation centres, dropping off food and water, sharing equipment, and simply keeping an eye out for neighbours," he said. "Your kindness shows the true spirit of our county and reminds us that, even in challenging times, we are stronger together."

James Smith, a resident of Minden Hills, shared that this was his first experience with flooding. Smith and his family moved to a property off Gelert Road a few years ago, and said the waters around his property were steadily rising. "It's never been this high before," he said, as he hauled sandbags into the back of his truck. "It sucks, it's an unfortunate circumstance, but we will get through it."

One neighbour on Anson Street in Minden shared that he just recently moved to the community. "It's amazing to see how everyone comes together," he said, wishing to keep his identity anonymous. "I haven't seen anything like this before."

While Kiara Sexton hasn't flooded before, she knew the risks around residing on a flood plain. "I remember watching the episode of *Still Standing* about flooding in Minden before I ever lived here, and being deeply moved by the spirit of the community," she said. "It felt special even from a distance. To now be here, experiencing that same generosity firsthand, has been something else entirely."

Sexton noted that her phone has been buzzing at all hours, with individuals offering support in the form of groceries or assistance with her two toddler daughters.

"Despite how challenging the past couple of days have been, I find myself feeling very grateful to be here," she said. "There's something grounding about facing a situation like this alongside your neighbours, working shoulder to shoulder, looking out for one another. I feel so lucky to be here."

That sentiment was felt around the county, as the waters continued to rise. Each time I went out to pack sand, there was a different group of people. Of course there were some familiar faces, running the show, but there were also new faces. Individuals of all ages, trying to find their place in the world where they could give back.

see BRIDGES page 3

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Tiffany English packs sand bags at the Minden Curling Club on April 15. English was one of the hundreds who came out to volunteer their time to the cause.

Bridges closed until further notice

from page 2

Tension began to rise in Minden Hills when it was announced on Friday, April 17 that Sunnybrook Bridge - the bridge that connects the two sides of Bobcaygeon Road through the heart of Minden - would be closing due to high waters.

The press release noted that the decision was not made lightly, as there was concern over the washout towards Scotch Line, landlocking the residents and businesses wedged between the two closures. "This measure is being implemented after the Emergency Control Group has reviewed the water levels, the ongoing snowmelt and weather forecast," noted the release. "At the Emergency Management meeting this morning, it was agreed the bridges need to be closed for public safety." Bobcaygeon Road was repaired promptly, but township staff have recommended treading carefully, as the waters continue to do damage to the fragile culvert.

Crowds gathered on each side of the bridge as it was closed on Friday evening; a precaution that had not been taken since the 2013 flood. "It's just so sad for our community," said Mary Douglas, the owner of Let's Get Local in downtown Minden, as she and her daughter watched the closure signs go up at sundown.

But even with the bridges closed, the community continued to show up. Sandbags were stocked at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church, with continued efforts at the Curling Club lot, to accommodate needs on both sides of the closure. The S.G. Nesbitt Arena was transformed into an evacuation centre, offering a space for individuals to eat, sleep, shower, warm up, and charge devices.

Township staff adding blockades to the bridge that runs along Bobcaygeon Road in Minden on April 17. Both birdges that cross the Gull River in Minden are closed until further notice.

Volunteers at the Minden Curling Club parking lot, piling sandbags to sort on trucks that travelled around the county.

And while the waters rose, the community rose higher. They showed up in rain, shine, sleet, and fog. Trucks, equipment, food, donations, time, effort, energy. A united force for the greater good, and a reminder of the resilience a small town can muster in times of need.

This story is ongoing, with the State of Emergency still in effect as I write these words. Further developments will be shared; through our pages, our websites, and our Instagram page, titled *Haliburton County Headlines.* Additional information is available through the township social media pages and online platforms, with support available for physical and mental health through the County of Haliburton resources. The Township of Minden Hills is steadily sharing updates through their emergency operations services, and for accurate information, should be the primary source of information.

There's so much more I could have added to this story. It kept me up every night of the week. Thinking about how to capture the energy of the community, the feeling of watching the waters slosh over the tops of your rubber boots, but knowing that's the least of your worries. Watching strangers become friends, friends become family. The rawness of emotions that float to the surface, reflecting the waters that run through the towns. Anger, fear, frustration, pain, but also joy, warmth, love, and pride.

And even though sandbags are heavy, we are reminded that we can handle it.

Because when we all carry the weight of our community together, things get a little lighter.

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Frost Centre starts new chapter

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

The official 'SOLD' sign was added to the Frost Centre property last week, with hopes high that the established space will serve the community in some capacity. /submitted by Barrie Martin

It's official, the Frost Centre property has been sold.

The well-known location in Algonquin Highlands has captivated many over the years, but the towering buildings off Highway 35, headed towards Dorset, have sat empty for a long time.

But prior to that, it was a hustling and bustling hub of youth and activity.

Originally built in 1944, the Frost Centre was known as the Ranger School, as it was built in collaboration between the Province of Ontario and the University of Toronto Faculty of Forestry, to educate government officials and university students through both in-class sessions, and amongst the great outdoors.

By 1969, the purpose of the facility shifted gears slightly, when the curriculum was taken over by Ontario's colleges and universities. In 1974, the Ontario Premier at the time, William G. Davis, officially called the education centre the Leslie M. Frost Natural Resources Centre, and it became the first outdoor facility completely dedicated to environmental education in Ontario.

In 1976, Barrie Martin came onto the scene. As a recent graduate from the University of Guelph, he was starting a project that focused on bird populations around the area, which had a start time of 5 a.m. each day. And the stage was set for the next nearly three decades of his life.

The centre introduced him to some of his best friends, his wife, and colleagues who he would work alongside with in a number of other contexts.

But in 2004, the facility was shut down. "It was a tragedy on so many levels," recalled Martin, noting the 35 people who were given three weeks notice before the end of their careers onsite.

Shortly after the closure, the provincial government issued a request for proposal (RFP) to welcome new organizations to the site. This was when the Ontario Public Service Employees Union stepped in. They purchased the property for over $3 million, with the intention of creating a retreat-like space for their members.

As many locals would know, the vision never came to fruition, with the property landing back on the market a few years ago.

And just last week, a sold sticker was stamped across that fading For Sale sign on the property. Martin shared that the real estate agent, Jonathan Weizel of Royal LePage Terre Equity Realty, confirmed that the new owner plans to operate a substance abuse and mental health rehab facility at the site.

While details have yet to be finalized or confirmed, this newspaper reached out to the representative of the buyer, Capital North Realty, and did not receive a response at the time of publication.

"Having worked there for 28 years, I was pretty interested in the organization and what it did," said Martin. "This was a groundbreaking effort to bring specialists together. A lot of the information collected there was the basis of curriculum in Ontario schools."

Martin and a series of former colleagues from his Frost Centre days made an effort to bring interest to the site, with a number of tours and information sessions dedicated to the history and possibilities of the site.

Many of the buildings on the 40 acre lot that hugs the shores of Lake St. Nora are designated heritage buildings, meaning that major renovations or alterations to the site would be challenging, in an effort to maintain accordance within the regulations.

"I'm really hopeful that this new owner will make a go of it," said Martin. "And I hope he is open for community engagement."

Further updates on the development of the site will be shared once they are made available.

AH talks 'destiny of our county' with CAO

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

Before the province forces the County to make a decision, Gary Dyke, CAO of Haliburton County, wants to beat them to the punch and conduct a study on restructuring our local governance model.

With this looming idea of restructuring, Dyke advocated for the study at Algonquin Highlands' most recent council meeting, held on Thursday, April 16.

Affordability was the primary point of contention. With the decisions in the 1970s and later decision in the 2000s to create a county, Dyke says they are systemic issues that must be addressed sooner, than later.

"Are we maintaining in the current system we run, are municipalities remaining affordable," asked Dyke.

The study will show what the current economic landscape across the county is, while identifying what options we have to better ourselves. The study will identify what governments are spending money on, how it is being spent, and what costs can be addressed.

Unlike Canada's other provinces, Dyke notes that Ontario is the only one that makes municipalities pay for social services directly.

The conversation surrounding restructuring and other options is beginning, but the final decision will come from the next council that is voted in for the 2026-2030 term.

"The County council understands that we have a problem that needs to be looked at," said Dyke.

"There appears to be increasing pressure coming from the province for all municipalities and regions to make change," added Algonquin Highlands Mayor Liz Danielsen. "This allows us to determine our own future as opposed to somebody jamming it down our throats."

Dyke agreed, saying that the province has made indicated expectations of municipalities going forward, with a priority on efficiency and development capacity

Currently, there are significant gaps in the fiscal contract and operational aspect between the province and municipalities across Ontario that need to be addressed.

"We have to show that we've done everything we can to show that we are spending the money in the best way we can, or [invest in the best way we can do it] to achieve stated goals," said Dyke. "Then we can go to the province and talk about the inadequacies of the property tax as the primary source of revenue."

Dyke explained to council that one way in boosting municipal budgets is receiving money from land transfer tax and HST.

"The money that we could collect would dwarf what you collect out of your property tax and mitigate any need to continually raise your tax base," said Dyke.

Services across the county like sewage, roads, and bridges have to be planned with over 40,000 users in mind. However, there are only 20,000 taxpayers in the county.

Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux sought clarity from Dyke regarding how decisions will be made.

Dyke hopes a decision is made three weeks before the 2026 election nomination, with the opportunity for questions and analysis for both candidates and people from the public.

He said that in the future, decisions could be made with majority support, not unanimous support.

"From what I have seen, there is not a municipality in Haliburton County that could survive on their own," said Dyke.

Dyke later clarified that municipalities under 5,000 people would have an extremely difficult time meeting financial obligations as a single tier entity.

Councillor Sabrina Richards asked how the township can retain their identity if there is a merger.

Dyke said one ultimate goal is to allow the people who live in our small communities and the businesses that operate within them to continue to do so.

Striving for its residents to continue living in Algonquin Highlands allows the municipality to maintain its identity.

"It is about having a service level that is affordable," said Dyke.

"We are talking about the destiny of our county and it's something we need to pay close attention to," said Danielsen.

Earthquake rumbles county

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

As if the rains weren't heavy enough this past week, Haliburton County was shaken up by a minor earthquake on April 14.

The core of the quake hit approximately 59 kilometres east of Pembroke, with reports of it being noticeably felt in Petawawa, Renfrew, Pembroke, Ottawa, and even locally in Haliburton County. The rumblings hit the scale at a 3.9 magnitude, and occurred at a depth of 13 kilometres, which according to Natural Resources Canada, is deemed a fairly shallow earthquake.

The site noted that magnitudes below 2 generally aren't felt by humans, but since 2025, Haliburton County has had 27 quakes of magnitudes up to 4.1, including one above 4, one between 3 and 4, one between 2 and 3, and 24 below 2 in the past year.

"While this is considered a minor quake, it is certainly strong enough to be felt by those in close proximity to the epicenter," shared the Ontario Storm Watch website.

While some local social media users shared that they felt the rumbling in Haliburton County, no damage or injuries were reported.

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A moment for Minden

Editorial

Emily Stonehouse

WE ALL watched the waters rise this past week. And while it's not necessarily something new, it still feels like a gut punch to the community every time it happens.

Minden Mayor Bob Carter referred to floods as "watching a trainwreck," noting that the slow and gradual pain of seeing the river creep into the crevices of the town is largely beyond our own control.

It's drastically different from the ice storm that slammed the county this time last year; a sudden and whooshing impact that left us a whole new level of dazed and confused.

Instead, a flood is like holding our breath. Each day, each moment, each hour, a little different. Sometimes the water levels waver ever so slightly; a sprinkling of hope filling our hearts. Other times, a deluge of splashes adds new ticks to a growing meter; memories of adding lines and squiggles onto your kids' growth chart, but this time, up is worse than down.

It's during these times, that we must take a moment for Minden.

Now I will be the first to say we should break down the barriers between Haliburton and Minden. The long, glorified beef of the two townships has had its place in history books since the early days of county formation. You'll see in these pages of our papers, I have made an effort to blur the arbitrary lines of the communities; ushering in the significance of acknowledging that we all bleed red.

But having lived in both communities, I know that there are differences.

Minden is resilient. It has to be. Built on a patchwork of land that nowadays would be deemed a floodplain, unfit for development, it has stood strong.

Year after year, flood after flood.

And experiencing a flood in real time is something that many see on social media, but until you're there, with your yellow boots deep in the murkiness of what was once a hustling and bustling street, it's difficult to truly understand.

While the people of Minden hold their breath, waiting, wondering about the waters, they don't push pause.

If anything, they do the exact opposite. Leaders are formed, delegations take place. Volunteers readily and dutifully fill in the gaps for those in need, connecting the dots of the community.

There's a palpable energy that floats to the surface. And while there's a stillness in waiting for what's next, there's a buzz that keeps momentum flowing.

Because when all this dies down, when the news trucks and reporters and social media specialists return to their work desks, the only thing left in the puddles of the past, are the people of Minden.

Let's remember this. Let's remember who showed up, which businesses offered a hand, which organizations prioritized the populations. We need to support a community that had to put profits on pause in the name of people, navigated challenges unseen, both professionally and personally.

When the waters start to recede - and they will, they always do - we need to see what's left, who's still standing, and how we can support a community that has spent the past few weeks holding their breath.

To remind them that they're safe, they're seen, and they can breathe again.

So long Sora

Humans & Technology

Erin Kernohan-Berning

IN SEPTEMBER 2025, OpenAI launched Sora. Sora was a text-to-video generative AI platform that CEO Sam Altman heralded as the "ChatGPT for creativity." In December 2025, OpenAI and Disney announced a $1 billion deal – OpenAI would license Disney characters for use in Sora, while Disney would become an OpenAI customer, integrating Sora into its workflows. Then, at the end of March, OpenAI announced it was scuttling Sora, and by extension its partnership with Disney.

Some commentators have pointed at the short life of Sora and the failure of OpenAI's 10-figure deal with one of the biggest entertainment companies in the world as a death knell for AI use in video, particularly mainstream movies and television. And I think that if your vision of the future of entertainment production is three humans in a dim room inputting prompts into an AI chatbot which spits out the next big blockbuster, then those commentators are probably right. But as usual, the reality is probably far more nuanced.

First, why did OpenAI discontinue Sora after such a short period of time? According to Altman, OpenAI needed the "compute" that Sora required to work. Text-to-video models are expensive – they take more computer processing power, more electricity, and more cooling compared to text-only models. They are also difficult to scale, when video length doubles, the resources to make that video quadruple. There was probably no way to accommodate a huge customer like Disney with the infrastructure OpenAI has without severely compromising the performance of its other products.

But does that mean that AI use in television and film is dead? Probably not. Disney has an entire research network with facilities in Los Angeles, Zurich, and Edinburgh. Disney Research focuses on robotics, artificial intelligence and machine learning, and immersive technology to support The Walt Disney Company's productions and parks. AI fields such as machine learning and computer vision have been incorporated into computer animation for some time now. However, these tools are not as easy as "input idea and spit out video." Rather they have been used in conjunction with and to enhance physical and manual methods.

Even where generative AI has been used in a production, such as in the Netflix series *The Eternaut*, it's only been used as a tiny part of the entire show. In this case, generative AI was reported to have aided in the creation of a scene depicting a building collapsing. Netflix executives trumpeted this advance in generative AI use in their 2025 second quarter investor call, with CEO Ted Sarandos pointing to the split-second moment as an example of how smaller productions can get big effects with limited budgets. However, he neglected to talk about the many other VFX techniques and physical methods used that make the show what it is.

I think this is where we need to look at all the different methods of storytelling artistry and appreciate them for what they bring to our entertainment. While AI might help with some things when used alongside other techniques, I'm hesitant to believe it's a replacement for them. Think about what the classic stop-motion animated *Wallace and Gromit* would lose if they came from just pixels and not clay. There are also many instances in popular shows, such as the TV series *Severance*, where a particular scene thought to be computer generated turned out to be created with some very cleverly applied physical techniques – much to the fascination of viewers.

How a film or TV show is made can have as much impact on the experience as the story it is telling and can even enhance it. *Nirvanna the Band the Show the Movie* depicts two musicians trying to book a gig at the Rivoli in Toronto, and through various hijinks the duo is transported back to 2008. The movie was shot over 200 days using a combination of guerilla filmmaking, archival footage from a web series shot between 2007 and 2009, and news broadcasts. This collection of material was then patched together to create a coherent and entertaining story.

The filmmaking in *Nirvanna the Band the Show the Movie* is not seamless, but catching glimpses through those seams makes you ask, "How did they do that?" The filming methods used in the movie also give it a profound sense of place – being filmed around several well-known places in Toronto including the Bridal Path and the CN Tower. Plugging the same concept into an AI video generator would likely not yield the same experience because the answer, "Oh, it's AI," is fundamentally uninteresting. What is interesting is the talent and imagination that people bring to their art.

points of view

Sticker shock

Loon Tales

Steve Galea

ONE OF the things that has always mystified me is the love that grown men of this era seem to have for stickers. You can't look at a truck, tool box, water bottle, tackle box, trailer, or boat without seeing a sticker with a brand logo on it.

For some reason, many adult men have grown to love these things.

Doubtful? Well, next time you are stopped at the lights, try waving at the pick-up truck in front of you – but don't be upset when they don't wave back. They're not being unsociable, they just can't see you through all those stickers in the rear window.

Last week, I was surrounded by so many cars adorned with stickers that I wondered if I somehow drove into a NASCAR event.

It seems almost every product we buy offers you an accompanying decal, which is an adult way to say sticker. I'm not sure when the companies that sell big boy toys started doing this, or even why, but I now know fellows who actually feel ripped off when the product they buy doesn't come with a sticker.

This has gotten so bad that I'm pretty sure, even stickers now come with stickers.

When I was a kid, every grown up I knew had an ingrained disdain for stickers. Apparently, getting the entire inventory of a sticker book off a brand-new fridge was not their idea of fun. Also, if I remember correctly, most fathers didn't like it when you placed a realistic sticker of a police car on their rear-view mirror.

My dad once drove the speed limit for a week.

Stickers were different back then too. You had to lick most of them like postage stamps to affix them. The stupidest kid in the group was always tasked with licking them. And, if I recall correctly, the glue tasted terrible.

I still don't like stickers, mostly because I keep forgetting that you don't have to lick them anymore – and it is sort of embarrassing to go to the ER with a bumper sticker affixed to your tongue that says, "Question stupidity!"

Last time, the doctor told me to stop doing this, which just goes to show you how far modern medicine has come.

Regardless of my personal beliefs, I started collecting the stickers and the accompanying sticker book offered at one of our local grocery stores for my grandkids, though I'm pretty sure that not a single cashier believed me when I explained who they were for. Nor, quite frankly, did Jenn.

But I proved them wrong last weekend when I visited my grandkids for a couple of days. As soon as my 10-year-old grandson Hudson saw me pull the stickers and sticker book out of my backpack, he looked at me, shook his head, and said, "It's OK Oompa, we'll take care of you."

My five-year-old granddaughter, who is, coincidentally, now my new favourite, got immediately excited about them though. So we spent a good part of the weekend filling up that sticker book with stickers.

She'd pick out a sticker, read me the number, and I'd find its place in the book. Then she would affix it, more or less, on the spot. It made all the weird looks by the cashiers worthwhile.

I even got a bit nostalgic and asked Hudson if he would lick the stickers for us. He did not. Apparently, his parents had shared my medical history.

pic *of the* past

A view of St. Germaine Street in Minden during the flood of 1943. According to newspaper archives, past flood years have included 1875, 1876, 1899, 1913, 1943 and 1951, with the river overflow its banks in 1928, 1929 and 1983. Recent floods have included 2013, 2017, and 2019. /submitted by Adele Espina

The nose knows

Our road *Down*

Sharon Lynch

IT HAD been one of those days when you wish you hadn't got out of bed. But it was almost finished and Luke was glad to be getting home. Work could be intensive and so he was looking forward to some stress-free time.

Pat had tied Simon on the porch and as Luke went by he unhooked the chain to bring the Lab indoors. Usually Luke held Simon's collar while guiding him indoors. But today the exhausted man was burdened down with grocery bags. So after a hesitant moment, he decided to just have Simon follow him into the house. He had done this many times in the past and Simon was always eager to return indoors for his dog treat.

As man and dog rounded the corner of the house, something caught Simon's attention and he took off across the field. Luke's exhausted heart sank. This was the last thing he needed right now. Of course calling the dog back was pointless. Once he caught the smell of something there was no stopping him. Though Luke tried – calling and calling but to no avail.

Pat heard the commotion and came out to see what was happening. By now Simon had stopped at the far end of the winter-weary field and appeared to have something of interest. As Luke stood there, arms full and feet heavy with fatigue, Pat headed out to where Simon had stopped, engrossed in something, probably unpleasant. While mentally beating himself up, Luke stood and watched to see what would unfold.

Of course, it being spring, the ground was as soft as a wet sponge and the air heavy with earthy smells. Just what a dog loves, thought Luke as he watched Pat approaching the dog. Simon was so engrossed in whatever had his attention that he didn't seem to notice Pat. "He has another deer leg," she called as she got close enough to see.

Luke's heart sank. There always seemed to be bits of animals about on the edge of the field. Often when hit by a car on the road, deer would make it into the bush to die. And predators were always happy to finish them off, given the opportunity. So legs, feet, even heads sometimes turned up once the snow left. And it seemed Simon could smell these delicious remains every time.

Just then Luke felt something on his leg. It was their cat Cleo, coming to see what all the fuss was about. In her haste, Pat had left the door ajar and no opportunity was lost on that feline. Curious but cautious as only a cat can be, Cleo headed to where the action was, trotting over the damp ground with delicate steps.

Once on sight, she sniffed while Simon growled a warning. Pat, having done this more than once before, reached down and grabbed Simon's collar and told him they were going home. He wanted to bring the leg with him but no luck there. Cleo gave one last sniff and then followed woman and dog home. After all, it was nearly dinner time.

letters to the editor

4Cs seeking help from community

To the Editor,

The 4Cs wants to thank the community and business partners for all the support that has been received to keep the Haliburton food bank going during these tough times. Our number of clients has almost doubled since this time last year.

Many people in our community don't know that the 4Cs is both the Lily Ann Thrift Store and the Haliburton Food Bank (both on York Street). Items donated to the Lily Ann are sold and those proceeds, along with cash donations, are used to purchase food for the Haliburton food bank. Every dollar of every cash donation goes directly to the purchase of food.

The 4Cs has a problem that the community can help with! You might not believe it but the 4Cs receives so much soiled and damaged clothing that we have had to find a way to create income instead of wasting dollars on landfill costs. That service is no longer available to us. The Diabetic Society, who has paid for these unsellable items in the past, is not picking up from the 4Cs at this time. Over a year, this will be a loss in income to the 4Cs of more than $6,000 this year alone.

That means if donations to the store include soiled or damaged clothing, those items now have to be taken by the 4Cs, at a cost, to the local landfill site. We are asking your readers to help us solve this problem by continuing to donate to the Lily, but to ensure that all items are clean and in good repair. If not, please take your own unusable clothing to the landfill!

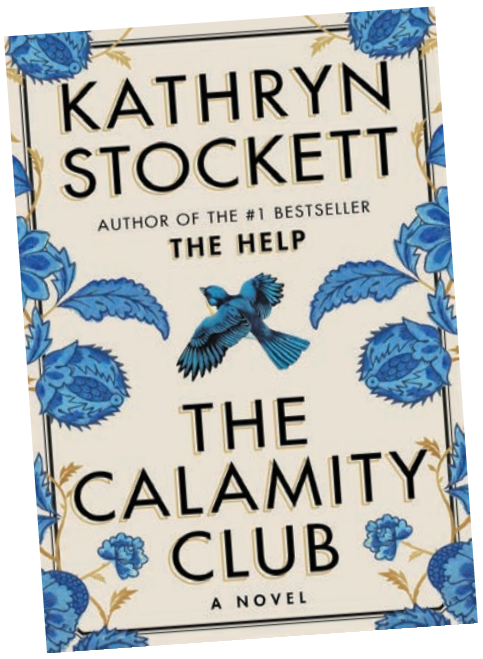
Thank you for helping the 4Cs stock the food shelves instead of incurring landfill costs. Help us continue to help those friends and neighbours in our community dealing with food insecurity to be able to access food when needed.

Louise Ewing,
Chair, 4Cs

Letters to the Editor note: Submissions are subject to editing for newspaper style and punctuation.

HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Book of the Week



Mississippi, 1933. Abandoned one Christmas Eve, eleven-year-old Meg Lefleur has learned to rely on no one, fighting to keep her spirit intact as one of the "unadoptable" girls at an orphan asylum.

Meanwhile, outspoken Birdie Calhoun arrives in town seeking help from her wealthy sister - only to discover her sister's perfect life is built on lies. When Birdie's path crosses with a desperate woman named Charlie, their fates - and Meg's - become intertwined in a bold plan to claim what they're owed.

But in a time when women's freedom is fragile, even the smallest act of defiance can come at a dangerous cost.

The Calamity Club by Kathryn Stockett will be available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library. Visit haliburtonlibrary.ca to place a hold or learn more.

Increase in suspected drug poisonings in local areas

Lakelands Public Health is issuing an alert due to a notable increase in suspected drug poisonings in Northumberland County. The substance is suspected to be fentanyl and appears as a light brown colour, with a lighter colour inside. It may smell like motor oil prior to being heated and may have an unusual texture. Due to the toxicity of the substance, more than one dose of naloxone may be required.

It is important to be aware that the unregulated drug supply may be contaminated with other substances. Naloxone should be used in all suspected drug overdoses, due to the possibility of opioid contamination or poisoning. Free Naloxone Kits are available at all Lakelands Public Health offices, participating local pharmacies, and other local agencies.

Signs of an opioid overdose may include:

- Very small pupils
- Slow or no breathing
- Cold and clammy skin
- Blue or purple fingernails or lips
- Snoring or gurgling sounds
- Heavy sedation, difficulty being woken up

Anyone who sees a person experiencing a drug poisoning is urged to intervene. Call 9-1-1, give the person naloxone, and start rescue breathing and, or chest compressions. The Good Samaritan Act protects anyone trying to help in an emergency from possible legal repercussions. The Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act also helps protect people on the scene of an overdose from being charged for using or possessing drugs for personal use.

Drug Poisoning Alerts

Lakelands Public Health issues focused toxic drug supply alerts, consistent with provincial practices, when data and information we receive indicates this information is urgent and could help the community. A single alert system is not yet available in all parts of our region, however the two alert systems remain active in Peterborough and Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, and Northumberland County. We are working towards using a single alert system as part of harmonization in the merger.

Lakelands Public Health recommends the following harm reduction practices:

- Keep multiple naloxone kits on hand.
- Test a small amount of the drug before you use it.
- Use new supplies and access needle disposal bins to reduce harms associated with substance use.
- Call the National Overdose Response Service (NORS), virtual safe consumption, at 1-888-668-NORS (6677) or use a buddy system and call a friend.
- Call 9-1-1 if an overdose is suspected.

Support:

Call or text 9-8-8 Suicide Crisis Helpline, a 24/7 suicide or emotional distress hotline if needed. Substance use counselling and treatments are offered through Rapid Access Addiction Medicine (RAAM) Clinics or Four Counties Addiction Services Team (Fourcast)

Reporting a Drug Poisoning or Drug Related Information:

To anonymously report drug poisonings and drug-related information to assist in a more effective response please use the online submission form for the appropriate region (Haliburton, Kawartha, Northumberland) (Peterborough).

Local Drug Poisoning and Opioid Reports:

For up-to-date data on opioid poisoning incidents within the Lakelands Public Health region, visit the Substance Harms Profile.

For more information on opioids and naloxone visit LakelandsPH.ca/naloxone.

Submitted

Minden Memories

Dr. Agnes Jamieson was a beloved physician and talented painter who captured the quiet beauty of everyday life in her artwork. This Spring-like painting of a Blue Heron is currently on view at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery in the Kirkwood Room until end of May. It was donated last year by Basil Cox, in memory of Mary Cox and the Cox Family. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

Bringing a community together

Despite ongoing floods, the Haliburton County Folk Society went forward with their scheduled concert on Saturday, featuring Devin Matthew Wilson and Minor Gold. To show their support for the community challenges, the Folk Society offered free tickets to those impacted by the floods. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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Volunteer Week

Sharing the past for the future; community contributions of Carol Simmons

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Carol Simmons, often behind the scenes, has been instrumental in bringing the history of Irondale to life. She credits the many other volunteers she works alongside with for her success over the years. /FILE

While she is often behind the scenes, nearly everyone in the Minden community has likely participated in something that Carol Simmons has been a part of. "It's just something I've been raised to do," she recalled, during a recent phone interview.

But the interview took some time. One email asking, Simmons initially denying. She likes to stay in the shadows; gives credit to the many who join forces to make the community tick.

And of course, credit is due to the masses. It truly takes a village. But Simmons is a constant companion to the goings on of the community, a finger on the pulse of our corner of the world.

While it may seem like her countless volunteer contributions have spanned for years, Simmons moved to Haliburton County in 1976, when her parents bought the restaurant many would know as the Brown Owl, where the Canadian Tire gas bar lives today. Simmons was in Grade 12 at the time, and jumped into calling Haliburton County her home.

She lived in a tiny apartment underneath the restaurant, where she worked as she grew older, but as her dreams began to span beyond the diner her parents owned, she started dabbling in volunteerism. "How can you not get involved in a community like Minden?" she asked with a laugh.

At this point, she had already volunteered as a Brownie and Guide Leader in her hometown of Whitby. Once she was settled in Minden, she began to support the local Highland Dance organization. For Canada's 125th birthday, she worked alongside Autumn Robinson to organize a community picnic at the Fairgrounds. "That was nice because it was just for the community," said Simmons, "it wasn't for anyone to profit, it was just a chance to bring the community together."

Through becoming immersed in the community, Simmons found her passion for the past. She was an original member of the Haliburton County Genealogy Group, and was the chair between 1995-2002, then again from 2008-2012. In between, she was the secretary for 2002-2003, the program coordinator in 2024, and stepped into the secretary position once again in 2026.

At the time, she was a curator at the Minden Museum, navigating the collection and digging into the stories of days gone by.

In 2003, Simmons married her partner, Fred. "I had always known him," she chuckled, "but we were in two different social circles. But we both curled, and one day, he needed a fourth person for his team. And here we are."

Fred hailed from the community of Irondale, where his family had roots tied back to the mid-1800s. "The boys were always telling stories," she laughed. "But they talked about how the history was dying, and no one was around to share the stories anymore."

With that single thought, Simmons jumped into action. She organized the Irondale Historical Society, dedicated to bringing pieces of the past to life, and making sure history stayed alive. "These people were all real," she said. "You just can't lose it. Someone has to remember it, somewhere. And they claim history repeats itself, so hopefully you learn something."

Simmons and her husband also volunteered with the local Fish Hatchery, where they would count eggs late at night from a dimly lit boat. "I've done some of the wildest things with Fred," she laughed.

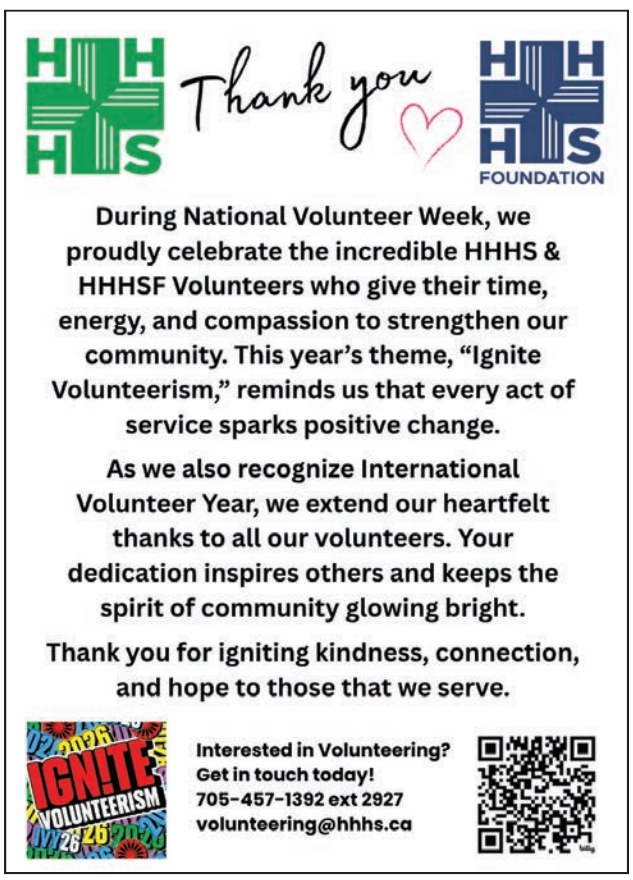
In February of 2023, Fred passed away, and with his passing, Simmons lost a bit of her spark. "The summer that Fred passed, I tried to quit," she said, referencing her many volunteer commitments. "My drive was gone."

Fred's brother, George, convinced her to stay on a bit longer, sharing the stories of Irondale through regular newsletters and community events. Simmons was also heavily involved with the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Radiothon as a part of their Foundation, Canoe FM weekly Radio bingo, and even the cemetery board in Minden for a few years. "There would be a lot of things that didn't get done if there weren't volunteers," she said, referencing the many who dedicate their time, their stories, their passion to the vibrancy of the community.

But in December of this past year, Simmons sat down to pen her resignation from the Irondale Historical Society, which had morphed into the Bark Lake Cultural Developments in 2012. "I think it was Fred, telling me it was time," she recalled. In April, she shared the following statement in the regular Irondale Newsletter:

"MY LAST WORDS I want at the outset to recognize those people that have served members of the various committees concerned with preserving Irondale's history - Irondale Historical Society 2008-2012 and the Bark Lake Cultural Developments 2012 to the present. These people offered their time and expertise to the various fundraisers and events that have been hosted over the past eighteen years.... yes 18 years! It's not easy being a volunteer in any capacity. Our world today is a busy one. While being a volunteer is satisfying, it can also be draining. I'm grateful for every single contribution that each of you made this year, and every year that you have served. Not to be forgotten are those people that stepped up giving their time on an individual event or project. They didn't sit on the committees but offered their help from time to time. Tremendous work! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!"

While Simmons took the time to thank the community that carried her for so many years, in turn, we as the community thank her for her time, dedication, interest, and passion for the past, the present, and the future of the Haliburton Highlands. From the team at these local newspapers and beyond, thank you, Carol, for your role in our community.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During National Volunteer Week, we proudly celebrate the incredible HHHS & HHHSF Volunteers who give their time, energy, and compassion to strengthen our community. This year's theme, "Ignite Volunteerism," reminds us that every act of service sparks positive change.
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Toby Fergenbaum - Thrift Warehouse Haliburton Volunteer

Volunteer Week

Friends of the Library: a community hub with international ties

IVY KATZ
Journalist

Janet Trull after her interview with local writer Bernie Nicholls. The Friends of the Library offer regular interviews with writers in an effort to fundraise for their ongoing initiatives. /FILE

"Internationally, I think libraries are becoming more popular," said Janet Trull, volunteer for the Friends of the Library. "Recently, we connected with Liberia. They reached out to us. We are truly a learning hub for the community, nationally and internationally, and for future generations."

"We have to remember the libraries are trustworthy and equitable in this era," explains Trull. "If you want to know what Haliburton was like 100 years ago, the library has the Cultural Heritage archive; historical research and you can find local authors as far back as the 1940s."

I personally found it comforting to know that in this era of misinformation we can look back on unadulterated archives. I find that often, the best way to know about the past is by exploring the voices of a close-knit community first hand. This is just one of the many resources offered by the Haliburton Library. "There is different information in the library archives," explains Trull. "It's not the same as randomly exploring the internet; "library staff can help connect you to the Ottawa Archives for research."

The Friends of the Library is a not-for-profit, volunteer based organisation. They are an integral part of helping to assist with funding for Haliburton County's eight libraries, which include: Haliburton, Minden, Cardiff, Dorset, Gooderham, Highland Grove, Stanhope, and Wilberforce.

Recently, the Friends helped purchase new bean bag chairs and easels for the children, as showed to me by Haliburton Chief Librarian and CEO, Andrea Brown. This was in addition to a much-needed replacing of the foam mat tiles in the children's section, Janet explains.

"We depend on our volunteers," Brown emphasizes. "Many people across the county lend their talents to help enrich our programming. Learning, literacy, and making connections are the main mandate of the library programs."

"The library creates equitable access," according to Trull. "There aren't many places you can go and feel welcomed and accepted." Without a doubt, the library provides an array of crucial services for the community, from helping people find a job or create a resume, to teaching seniors how to navigate the internet, and importantly, how to do so safely while avoiding scams. "There is a high rate of elderly who may not have the confidence to access the internet," explains Trull; the library helps break down those barriers.

It's not all about learning, the library is also a great place to meet up. "I think a lot of people don't realise just how much is going on," says Trull. This includes: film presentations, home-school hangout, Wills and Estates legal clinic, French Conversation Circle, Afternoons with Ancestors, and more. Simply go to HaliburtonLibrary.ca/FOHCPL to see what's up, subscribe to their email newsletter, and follow the Haliburton Library on Facebook and Instagram to stay in the loop.

There are so many readers in this community. Haliburton boasts over 20 bookclubs, with no signs of it slowing down. Brown showed me a whole wall of bags filled with books for the book club organisers. All of this is done with the help of the Friends. Each bag comes equipped with multiple copies of the same book and discussion questions. All of this is free to sign out. In a world where not much is without cost, the library seems like a gold mine.

The Friends of the Library is separate from the library board, but functions to support the library programs, raise awareness, and help raise money for the library, especially the book clubs. Check out the Book Nook the next time you go in and leave a donation for a used book. Other ways to support include signing up for a $5 Friends of the Library annual membership at the library.

The next Friend's Café at the Minden Hills Library is on Monday, April 27 at 1 p.m. with local author Fay Martin and her new book: *Dementia Widow*. A personal story touching on what so many are living through in these times, followed by a Q&A, with Janet Trull as interviewer.

The next major fundraiser will be on Nov. 1, 2026 with legendary CBC broadcaster Carol Off. Be sure to follow the Friends on their socials and not miss that important event.

In the meantime, pop into your local library, meet a friend, check out a book or DVD and stay in the loop, knowing that by supporting the library, you are also adding to our local history.

Laurie Scott, MPP
Haliburton - Kawartha Lakes - Brock
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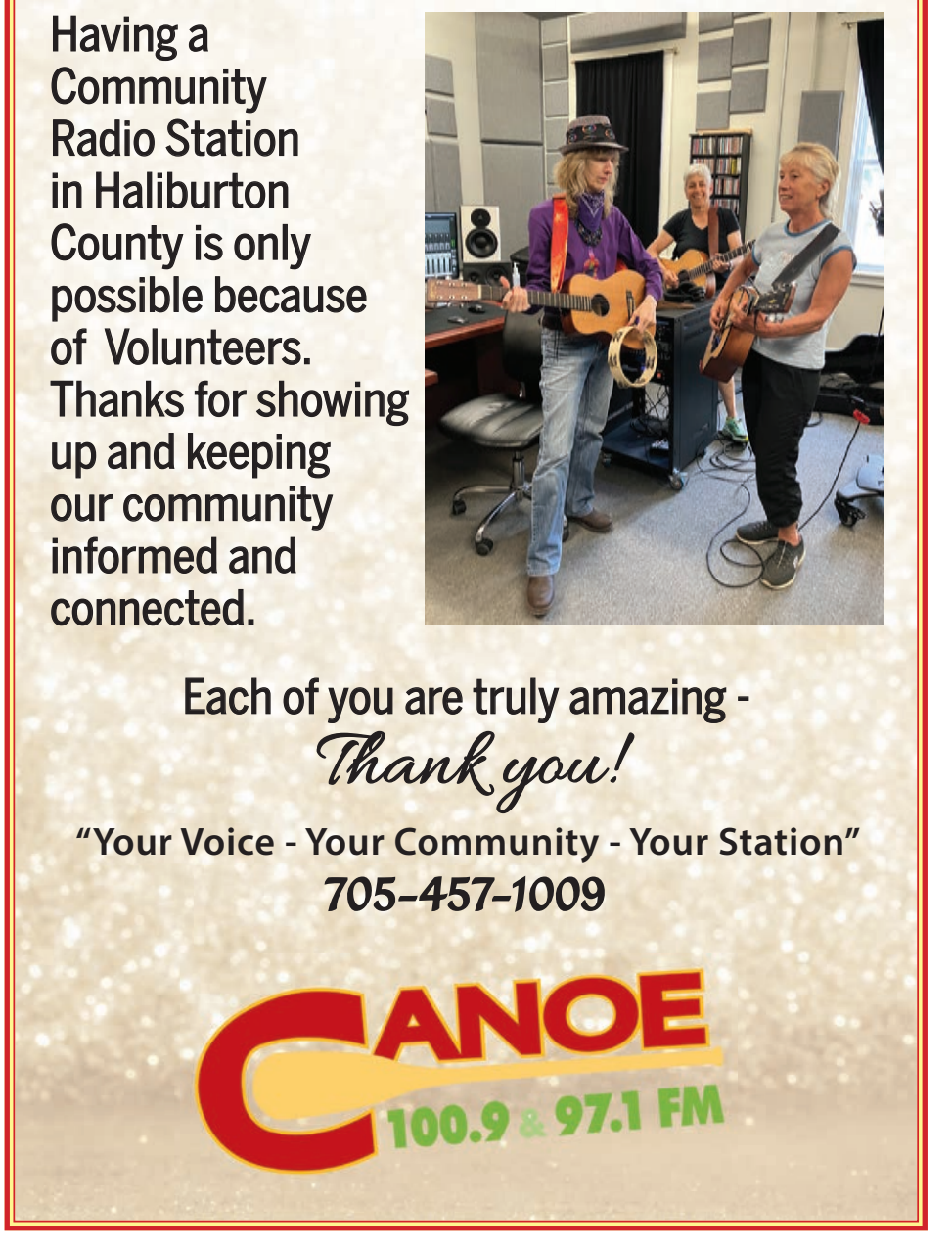
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Volunteer Week

Hatchery manager recognizes their volunteers

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association is operated by over 30 volunteers, who support fish stocking and marine management at local lakes. /FILE

It takes a village to run our local hatchery.

For Randy Charter, the hatchery manager for the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association (HHOA), he is thankful for the 35 volunteers that advocate and support the health and future of their local conservation efforts.

Charter is the brains behind the hatchery's decisions.

After retiring from his career as a nuclear operator, he was first told about the HHOA's Fish Hatchery by his home's previous owner. It was by chance that he met a past president of the HHOA at the Haliburton Home Show, when he fell into volunteering with the organization.

"It's amazing how many lakes there are in such a small area," said Charter.

According to Charter, it was the cool factor of raising Haliburton Gold trout, a unique species that evolved due to glaciation. The fish, known for its salmon-coloured flesh, smaller, torpedo-shaped structure, and its hardiness, has been a key species of interest of the hatchery.

"I have always enjoyed fishing and enjoyed nature," he said.

Soon after volunteering with the hatchery, Charter was promoted to the manager position. It was trial by fire in the position, quickly learning the calculations for water parameters, feeding amounts, and water chemistry. Luckily, Charter has had great mentors at the hatchery, including Dave Flowers and Ron Sedley, amongst others.

That is one aspect of the organization that they do best, says Charter. Volunteers support each other and realize their strengths that every volunteer can contribute to the hatchery.

Charter was the manager for eight years before taking a break, then returning to the role again recently.

"I am in charge of all things fish," said Charter. "We take great pride in being the only hatchery that raises Haliburton Gold."

The fish that the hatchery raises start off their life as tiny eggs. Every step of the trout's life cycle is closely monitored by volunteers like Charter, keeping track of food, space, and water quality.

A huge amount of effort is put forth by their volunteers in ensuring that the fish are at the right size and healthiness before being released into local waterbodies.

Lakes that receive stocked fish are chosen by the Ministry of Natural Resources, Charter would like to add. No favouritism can be had by the hatchery when it comes to stocking local lakes.

"I may make the decisions, but it is the volunteers that make this all happen," said Charter.

> *"We take great pride in being the only hatchery that raises Haliburton Gold.*
>
> — Randy Charter, manager of the Haliburton Fish Hatchery

"I love doing tours and educating the public."

His favourite part of the job is when little kids visit the hatchery. Kids can get up close and personal with the fish and beam with smiles when they are leaving.

For Charter personally, he is proud to be able to contribute with his nuclear expertise. When he first started volunteering with the hatchery, an issue with radon had been identified. Knowing that radon is a radioactive gas that comes from the outgassing of groundwater, Charter brought attention to the heightened risk of radon exposure. With 300 litres of groundwater flowing every minute, the potential for radon offgassing increases exponentially.

"We are in great shape now," ensures Charter.

With bringing attention to the issue and raising funds to a new HRV and ventilation system, Charter was successful in being the first community hatchery to address their radon issues.

"I love the stocking time of the year. You see the fruits of your labour," said Charter. While bittersweet, nothing is better than seeing the fish you have raised for nearly two years venture off into the wild.

Releasing brings a sigh of relief. Then back to work in promoting conservation, raising future generations of trout, and ensuring that our local waterbodies and woods are stocked for years to come.

Even people who have lived in Haliburton for decades are still not aware of the hatchery and the work that comes from volunteers in ensuring our fishing stocks. For Charter and the other volunteers of the hatchery, a simple thanks for their efforts goes a long way.

Beyond the recognition, the hatchery is always looking for new volunteers to add to their ranks.

"There is something for anyone to do," said Charter. "No matter their abilities."

If you would like to volunteer with the outdoors association, please apply through their website at hhoa.on.ca. When you see their booth at places like the Home and Cottage Show, they ask that you pay them a visit and say hello.

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Volunteer Week

Volunteer voices the heartbeat of Canoe FM

AMANDA DUNCOMBE–LEE

Guest Columnist

Our Whole Community Wins, with Radio Bingo...
Here are the Not for Profit
organizations within our comm
who were financially supported
Radio Bingo in 20
CANOE 106.9 FM

Canoe FM volunteers Rita and John Wilson take a moment to show off the new gear offered at the studio. /submitted

Roxanne Casey, Station Manager at Canoe FM radio station in Haliburton, says fun, flexibility, and chocolate offerings are key components to keeping a contingent of 127 volunteers running strong.

"Everything we do, the entire radio station, is run by volunteers," said Casey.

Volunteers and staff work together to ensure everyone has a rewarding experience. "Everyone gets to know each other really well; it's like they've been there forever and they've just started," she said. Everyone treats everyone with respect and kindness, and we have flexibility, and we have fun."

"And we always have chocolate, dark and light."

The community radio station has had volunteers since its inception, including five volunteers that have been helping for 23 years. But numbers have escalated over the years and volunteer management became a significant task. The station recently secured a grant to purchase Better Impact, a volunteer management software that allows potential volunteers to apply online before meeting up with staff to talk about opportunities.

Once registered, volunteers are offered online training through Better Impact as well as in person at the station.

Casey said that while most of the volunteers are on-air, they also function on committees, in fundraising initiatives, as board members, and in other roles. Several volunteers solely help with Radio Bingo, which Casey calls "a really big job."

"Bingo is a really important part of the radio station now because it not only raises money for us at Canoe but for other non-profits in the county."

Ten years of running Radio Bingo has raised nearly $700,000 for the community.

"Every year, we try to raise a little more money than the year before," said Casey. "You're supporting so many other organizations when you buy that bingo sheet."

Casey said the organization is not immune to the modern struggles of maintaining volunteers. "All of us struggle to get new volunteers. Retaining them is a challenge as well. There was a time when volunteers came on to an organization and you knew they would work every Tuesday for a full day or whatever. Now you deal with volunteers … where it's a challenge to schedule [them]. But that's the way volunteerism is now, so the more open and flexible you are, the easier it is to increase your volunteer numbers."

Casey said most applicants get excited about the prospect of volunteering at a radio station.

"Once you learn how to use the computer systems and get it all figured out it's just fun. It can be terrifying the first day - people are scared and nervous and shaking but once they've done it there's this relief, like, my gosh, I don't know what I was so scared about."

Casey said volunteers help the station function as an information centre as well, helping people stay connected. Members of the public call or text in to report accidents and incidents, lost animals, jewellery, and even a set of false teeth.

"It's fun when you get something a bit unusual, to be announcing those things on the radio. There's a potbellied pig that goes missing once and a while," she said with a laugh.

When asked what volunteers mean to Canoe FM, Casey replied, "they are part of our community and therefore are the community connectors, the spirit, the trusted voices. And they are as diverse as Haliburton County – they care. Simply, without volunteers there is no Canoe FM."

Volunteer dedication keeps Minden's young curlers sliding forward

AMANDA DUNCOMBE–LEE

Guest Columnist

A group of young curlers celebrate the season together through the Minden Curling Club. The group is always open for more to join the team. /submitted

Lynda Litwin, volunteer coordinator of Minden Youth Curling program, says watching young curlers in the community grow, develop, and have fun on the ice at the Minden Curling Club is her biggest incentive to continue volunteering.

"Working with kids is very rewarding. I mean, they're just so much fun. They just lap up all the attention, and embrace it, and they blossom. They grow. It's great to see."

Litwin, who is also a Rotarian at Minden Rotary and works as a realtor, has been volunteering at the Minden Club for 15 years. Her own children joined the program when they were in elementary school.

"It's a great club we've got now; the kids are really super," she said. "Historically, before Covid, we were up to 25 to 32 kids in the program, and post-Covid the numbers have been drastically down. But last year we had 16 kids on paper. Various kids have different things come up during the week, so you have a whole variety [of groupings]."

The youth program is designed for children from Grade 3 (or eight years old) to High School graduates. High School-aged curlers can also choose to join the adult leagues at the club, where other adult members welcome them.

Litwin said there's been an effort to promote and grow the club through the local schools.

"It's probably the cheapest activity to get your kids involved in," she said, noting the club only charges seventy dollars for the whole season.

According to Litwin, there were 216 members at the club as of last year. Volunteer jobs range from washing dishes and bartending to coaching and preparing for bonspiels. A few people have taken on multiple roles at the club and choose to spend numerous hours per week volunteering.

One of these volunteers is Dave McKay, who Litwin highlighted as one of the club's longest-term volunteers. He coaches in both the youth program and Red Wolves league, acts as a scorekeeper for most of the bonspiels, consults with ice maintenance, supports the music nights and helps in the kitchen.

"He just pitches in all the time, and does everything," said Litwin.

Many of the volunteers are recent retirees looking for new opportunities for personal fulfilment and to give back to the community. Litwin said that it's important for these volunteers to try different things and find out the best fit for them.

"You've got to be careful volunteering, taking on as much as you want to take on and not heading into burnout, and changing what you're doing," she said. "We have a lot of people who, when the time comes to volunteer, don't want to do what they did professionally … and yet that's their skillset. So you know, they have to decide for themselves what feels right."

Interested volunteers can get in touch with the club through the Contact page on the Minden Curling Club website, www.mindencurlingclub.com.

Lions Club approved for storage space

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

Volunteers are the glue that holds our community together.

With a community organization like the Dorset Lions club, the group supports community events like the volunteer firefighters' dinner, Dorset Fishing Derby, and the Dorset Snowball Winter Carnival.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the Dorset Lions used a storage space in the kitchen area of the former Dorset Recreation Centre. They acknowledge that this space was problematic.

When the Dorset Rec Centre reopened after its renovations, the Lions were told that there would be no storage available.

On Thursday, April 16, council discussed the Lions Club's request of setting up a lockable cabinet under the stairs of the Dorset Rec Centre.

"We meet onsite three times each month plus support Dorset Rec Centre's programs and events," writes their letter to council. "Our club has been the prominent service club for Dorset since 1974, currently with 28 members supporting the community."

The group says that bringing their paraphernalia including flags, place settings, podiums, and other nonfood related items has become a challenge for its members.

"Anyone would be hard pressed to say that they have done more for the community than the Lions have," said AH Mayor Liz Danielsen.

Chris Card, Parks, Rec, and Trails Manager for the township, was present to discuss the topic. He told council that if the storage unit is approved, that it would set a precedent and allow for other service groups to approach council.

Card offered an alternative solution of clearing space in their own storage area for the Lions.

Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux asked if there is potential to have a storage unit built under the stairs to maximize space. There could be lockable sections of storage for community groups

"The community centre is there for the community," said Dailloux. "We want them to use it."

"I am hearing that for now we'd like to support the request," said Mayor Danielsen.

Council unanimously decided to allow the storage locker.

The cabinet purchased by the Lions can be easily moved. If an issue arises, the council says they can discuss additional options in the future.

Decisions up in the air

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

The Stanhope Municipal Airport needs improvement. With a laundry list of repairs increasing every year, the time to fix the airport is now.

That was the topic of the council meeting held on Thursday, April 16.

AviaNG Airport Consulting was brought in to talk at the beginning of the meeting. The company prepared a draft summary outlining the scope of what is required to improve the airport.

Their proposed project outlined investigating current conditions, opportunities and constraints with the site, plans for development, a marketing strategy for the airport, and a draft report.

The company estimated their services costing between $81,000 and $122,000, which includes $10,000 to $20,000 for the company to report the draft to council.

The company says that they have experience with smaller airports in the past.

Adam Thorn, public works manager, sought the presentation by AviaNG to express to council that they should hold off on progressing with their airport development plan until next year.

"I think that what we can do is some of the leg work ahead of time in-house," said Thorn.

He noted that the municipality has a good plan currently and needs to decide if they want to become landlords or sever plots of land to sell.

Thorn describes it as the necessary starting point for development and improving the airport and area.

Frankly, any company that wants to set up shop near the airport should be welcomed. With more businesses, comes more jobs, says Thorn. Within reason, of course.

"I think we have a lot of opportunities within the airport property as well as within the development area," said Thorn.

He explained that some lots can be improved for businesses, in combination with others being sold to offset improvement costs.

"There is a heavy draw to want to bring people to our area," said Thorn. "We are going to be really hard pressed to develop a property, put a building on it, and ask someone to try and pay $100,000 a year to cover that payment. It is going to be impossible."

Danielsen says that she does not want to delay discussions until next year. She says council should approach the project in bite sized pieces, with some parcels of land on the property being sold sooner than later.

"I can see why we can't move forward with this and lease in pieces," said Danielsen.

"I think staff and committee know our area and know who wants to be here," said Councillor Julia Shortreed. "They can talk to big businesses and say big names. It doesn't mean they are going to come here."

see AH page 15

Speed bylaw set by Algonquin Highlands

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

Speeding is a huge issue across the county.

As all drivers should know, roads without signage are under the rules set by the Ontario Highway Traffic Act. By the books, the default speeds of roads outside built-up areas is 80 km/h.

Adam Thorn, public works manager for Algonquin Highlands, visited council held on Thursday April 16 to propose a broad speed bylaw, changing the speed to 60km/h.

Thorn was firm in saying that 80km/h is too fast in non-rural areas and is extremely unsafe.

With a majority of municipal roads having signs, this bylaw would cover the roads without signage. If a speed bylaw needed to be changed in the future, one could be added as a bylaw.

"By putting a default speed limit in place, would we then be required to sign," asked AH Mayor Liz Danielsen.

Thorn said that all roads would need to be signed, signalling that they are now 60km/h. All roads unsigned would have a speed limit of 80km/h.

With the default maximum speed of 60km/h, signed lower speed limits will still be enforceable. This change in bylaw "reflects typical road conditions, sightlines, and residential activity, while allowing for lower limits in areas with high pedestrian traffic, sharp curves, or other safety considerations," writes the proposal to council.

The reduction of the default maximum speed was approved by council, reducing speeds to 60km/h on all maintained roads in Algonquin Highlands.

AH at odds for airport

from page 14

Danielsen said she liked the suggestion of working with an external real estate agent.

"I do think a more grassroots approach to this is the way that we need to go," said Councillor Sabrina Richards.

She said that the airport committee could have available feedback with ideas for the airport. Her focus is to work on the current housing shortage, before they look at attracting bigger businesses to the municipality.

"Light industrial and commercial components can include housing components," said Danielsen.

Dailloux said that the priority for the airport is for it to increase its economic viability. Bringing their coffers into the black would reduce subsidization by taxpayers that do not use the airport. Without a proper financial strategy, Dailloux fears that the hangar repairs are not justified to taxpayers.

With the cost of construction and maintenance, Thorn says it is unlikely that the airport will get back in the black through leasing alone.

At most, some properties would be giving a driveway for accessing the property.

Thorn says that he will return with a detailed list of lots the municipality owns on May 7.

www.mindenhills.ca
In Case of Emergency Dial 911 / After-Hours
Municipal Emergency Dial 1-866-856-3247

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

EMERGENCY RESOURCES

The Township of Minden Hills is in a declared state of emergency due to flooding conditions.
• If there is immediate danger at any time, call 911.
• Anyone needing assistance with evacuation should contact the municipality during business hours via flood2026@mindenhills.ca. If there is an emergency, contact 911.
• Call 988 for Mental Health Assistance available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week.
• Call 811 for Non-Urgent Medical Assistance – connect with a Registered Nurse Day or Night.
• Insurance questions? The Insurance Bureau of Canada advises people with homes experiencing flooding issues to contact your Insurance Representative or they can help contact them at 1-844-227-5422 or email consumercentre@ibc.ca for help to navigate *the claim process.*

PUBLIC ACCESS AED EVENT- NEW TENTATIVE DATE

The official unveiling of the new public access Automated External Defibrillator (AED), originally scheduled for April 16, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., has been postponed due to ongoing flood conditions in the area. A tentative new date for the unveiling has been set for April 30, 2026. Further details will be shared on our website and social media accounts once confirmed.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

April 30 – Special Council Meeting
May 14 – Regular Council Meeting
May 28 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Confirm you are on the Voters List! The next municipal election will be held on Monday, October 26, 2026. To register and/or confirm your information visit the Elections Ontario Register Voter Portal www.registertovoteon.ca/

Need assistance? Visit election staff at the Administration building (7 Milne St.) Monday-Friday during regular business hours.

RIVERWALK CLEAN UP- NEW TENTATIVE DATE!

Due to flooding conditions, the Earth Day River Walk Clean Up Event has a tentative new date for May 13th. To participate, please register by scanning the QR code.

7 Milne Street, PO Box 359, Minden, ON K0M 2K0
705-286-1260 Toll Free: 1-844-277-1260 Fax 705-286-4917
Township.Minden.Hills Minden Hills@twpmindenhills @Township_MindenHills

THE TOWNSHIP OF MINDEN HILLS
IN SEASON, EVERY SEASON

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills has received applications to consider by-laws to stop up, close, and convey those parcels of land, being shoreline road allowances, more particularly described as follows:

1. **File No. PLSRA2024054**: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Davis Lake, lying in front of 1003 Lilypad Lane located within Lot 10, Concession 2, Geographic Township of Lutterworth

2. **File No. PLSRA2025077**: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Twelve Mile Lake, lying in front of 2060 Twelve Mile Lake Road located within Lot 10, Concession 12, Geographic Township of Minden

3. **File No. PLSRA2025078**: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Twelve Mile Lake, lying in front of Property Roll #4616-032-000-77000 within Lot 10, Concession 12, Geographic Township of Minden

4. **File No. PLSRA2025089**: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Kashagawigamog Lake, lying in front of 1200 Sugar Bush Lane located within Lot 21, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Minden

5. **File No. PLSRA2025090**: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Kashagawigamog Lake, lying in front of 1232 Sugar Bush Lane located within the Lot 21, Concession 4, Geographic Township of Minden

1. PLSRA2024054

2. PLSRA2025077

3. PLSRA2025078

4. PLSRA2025089

5. PLSRA2025090

The above noted applications are available for inspection in the Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned or by visiting www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom.

AND TAKE NOTICE should you wish to provide comments with respect to the above referenced applications, please submit in writing those comments to the undersigned not later than end of day on May 15, 2026.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned not later than May 15, 2026.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE if deemed advisable, By-laws giving effect to the proposed closures and conveyances will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills. Please note that a Council meeting to consider By-laws for the above referenced applications will be scheduled at a later date following the requiste commenting period.

Donna Sisson
Clerical Assistant, Building, By-Law and Planning
705-286-1260 Ext. 509
dsisson@mindenhills.ca

Art attack II

Students and Fleming alumni showed off their work at the annual *I Made It* show this past weekend at the Haliburton School of Art and Design./TIM YANO staff photographer

Notice
(Applicant – Ivy/Nailor/Hansen)

In the matter of the *Municipal Act* and in the matter of a proposed By-law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of a Original Shore Road Allowance along the shore of **Minniecock Lake**, more particularly hereinafter described.

Notice Is Hereby Given, pursuant to the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at a virtual meeting on **Tuesday, the 12th day of May, 2026**, at 9:30 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

> Part of the Original Shore Road Allowance in front of Lot 31, Concession 15, Township of Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Part 1 on Plan of Survey 19R-11215, made by Bishop Geyer Surveying Inc. **completed October 31, 2024.**

The Plan of Survey 19R-11215 is available to you for inspection by you making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above-described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or e-mail the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

And Take Further Notice that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Shoreline Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

Dated at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 14th day of April, 2026.

Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road,
WILBERFORCE, ON K0L 3C0
rrogers@highlandseast.ca
(705) 448-2981

Notice
(Applicant – Thatcher)

In the matter of the Municipal Act and in the matter of a proposed By-law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of a Original Shore Road Allowance along the shore of **Devil's Gap Lake,** more particularly hereinafter described.

Notice Is Hereby Given, pursuant to the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at a virtual meeting on **Tuesday, May 12, 2026**, at 9:30 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

> Part of the Shore Road Allowance in front of Lot 5, Concession 5, Township of Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Part 7 on Plan of Survey 19R-11060 made by Van Harten - Land Surveyors – Engineers, **completed June 12, 2024.**

The Plan of Survey 19R-11060 is available to you for inspection by you making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above-described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or e-mail the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

And Take Further Notice that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Shoreline Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

Dated at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 21st day of April, 2026.

Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road,
WILBERFORCE, ON K0L 3C0
rrogers@highlandseast.ca
(705) 448-2981

Lakelands Public Health seeks community feedback

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

The duty to keep the public healthy is something that falls on everyone's shoulders. As we all have learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, immunization is one way for not only protecting yourself, but your neighbour too.

That was on everyone's mind at Lakeland Public Health Community Town Hall, held on Tuesday, April 15 in Minden.

Lakelands Public Health, formerly known as the Haliburton Kawartha Northumberland Peterborough Health Unit, visited the Minden Community Centre to engage the community and share their current campaign of seeking feedback from the public to inform of the communities wants, needs, and disadvantages.

Lakelands Public Health serves Haliburton County, City of Kawartha Lakes, City and County of Peterborough, Northumberland County, First Nations including Alderville, Hiawatha, and Curve Lake.

Cec Ryall, vice-chair of the new board, opened the meeting, drawing attention to the importance of each community across the Lakeland's district that it consists of.

"This merger created something much stronger, an organization that can better serve our community today and for generations to come," said Ryall.

Thomas Piggott, CEO of Lakelands Health, led the presentation, describing an overview of the Lakelands Health umbrella.

The health unit currently provides vaccination clinics, support for parents, nutrition training, mental health support, smoking cessation, food safety, and a dental health clinic, amongst others.

Piggot's talk focused on four questions, including who we are, where we come from, why we are here, and where they are going.

"The first conversation of a merger of the health units happened back in 1975," said Piggott. "It took a good fifty years, a couple of generations to get here, but here we are. This was a voluntary process and is about strengthening the health for all residents of the region."

Piggot also said that the health unit recognizes how remote the county of Haliburton is, and the challenges in spreading public health across the entirety of the region. Notably, he says that he met with the paramedic chief.

"We are working hard to continue to maintain the services that we have and grow some others as well," he said.

One key goal of the organization is health equity, to ensure that everyone receives services best available to improve their health.

The health unit is funded by taxpayers, and with this limited amount of funding, Piggott says that the health organization stretches the money as far as it can.

The most cost effective and best return on investment for health is disease prevention.

The example given for this was the connection between smoking and lung cancer. Information that smoking can lead to cancer has been available since 1950. Public health efforts have lead to correlating numbers between smoking and cancer rates to plummet, as well as the smoking rate across Ontario to drop to around 10 per cent.

"Unfortunately, we are not seeing the same investment we might like in preventing diseases as we are in treating diseases," said Piggott.

While treatments costs and inflation have skyrocketed, the new funding that public health units are receiving just cannot keep up.

While public health is not flashy, it is important work to set the groundwork in improving future generations.

While the formation of the health unit was thought to be impossible, Ryall says that the merger is a good thing for Haliburton County.

It is hard to comprehend how large of an area the public health unit seeks to serve. Yet, the merger was needed to advocate for change and ensure equality of the regions.

While there is no immediate action being taken, Ryall says that the government has been listening to the board, and has been asking important questions.

"We are starting to grow and make a whole new approach to public health within our region," said Ryall. "As we begin developing our strategic plan, your voice matters."

Ryall is hopeful that with the feedback from the community, the board will continue to advocate for change from the government.

Currently, Lakelands Public Health is seeking ideas, concerns, and priorities from its residents. If you would like to have your challenges and ideas for public health heard, the organization asks you to visit their website lakelandsph.ca and fill out their most recent survey.

SUDOKU SOLUTION

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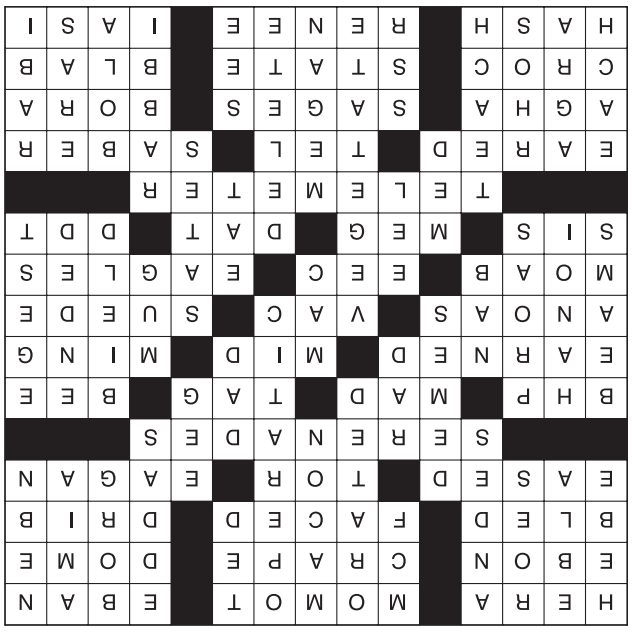
CROSSWORD ANSWERS



2026 Municipal Election

Thinking of Running for Council…..Now What?

Free - Candidate Information Workshop

Tuesday, May 5, 2026 - 6:30 PM
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129
719 Mountain St. Haliburton

Who Should Attend:

- Potential candidates
- Spouse or partner (family members of potential candidates)
- Anyone interested in learning more about local government

Anyone who is considering running for the role of Mayor, Deputy Mayor or Ward Councillor in any of the County of Haliburton municipalities is invited to attend a free candidate information session.

The information session **"Thinking of Running for Council…Now What?"** will be led by Clerks on Call, municipal management consultants with over 30 years of municipal experience. The session will provide an overview of the understanding the reasons to run—or not run—for council, key considerations before entering the race, the roles and responsibilities of council members and staff, the powers and influence of municipal government, the importance of transparency and accountability, and strategies for engaging with the media and the public.

There is no registration required for in person attendance.

Nominations to run for Council commence on May 1, 2026. Nomination Day is Friday, August 21, 2026 (9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.). Municipal Election Day will be held October 26, 2026.

Hosted by Township of Algonquin Highlands, Municipalities of Highlands East and Dysart et al and the Township of Minden Hills

NOTICE OF NOMINATION FOR OFFICE
Municipal Elections Act, 1996 (s. 32)

2026 MUNICIPAL AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS

NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the positions listed below must be made on the prescribed form (Form 1) and must include signatures of at least 25 persons (eligible electors within your municipality) endorsing the nomination on the prescribed form (Form 2) (School Board Trustees are excluded from the 25 signature requirement). Nomination forms are available at your local municipal Clerk's Office or on the municipality's website. All Nomination forms must be filed, either in person or by your agent, by appointment, with the Clerk/Returning Officer of the appropriate municipality during normal office hours between May 1, 2026 to Thursday, August 20, 2026, and between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. on Friday, August 21, 2026 (Nomination Day).

The required filing fee for the Head of Council is $200.00 and all other offices are $100.00, cash, debit, certified cheque or money order made payable to the appropriate municipality and must accompany the signed forms. Full details on the procedures to be followed may be obtained from the appropriate Municipal Clerk. Please call the appropriate office to schedule an appointment to file your nomination.

MUNICIPAL OFFICES FOR WHICH PERSONS MAY BE NOMINATED:

MAYOR (1) COUNCILLOR Ward 1 (1) Ward 2 (2) Ward 3 (1) Returning Officer – Dawn Newhook **Township of Algonquin Highlands** 1123 North Shore Road Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0 Tel: 705-489-2379 www.algonquinhighlands.ca Email: dnewhook@algonquinhighlands.ca	MAYOR (1) DEPUTY MAYOR (1) COUNCILLOR Ward 1 (1) Ward 2 (1) Ward 3 (1) Ward 4 (1) Ward 5 (1) Returning Officer – Amanda Duncombe-Lee **Municipality of Dysart et al** 135 Maple Avenue P.O. Box 389 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 Tel: 705-457-1740 www.dysartetal.ca Email: aduncombe-lee@dysartetal.ca
MAYOR (1) COUNCILLOR Ward 1 (1) Ward 2 (1) Ward 3 (1) Ward 4 (1) Returning Officer – Robyn Rogers **Municipality of Highlands East** 2249 Loop Road P.O. Box 295 Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0 Tel: 705-448-2981 www.highlandseast.ca/election/ Email: HEelection2026@highlandseast.ca	MAYOR (1) DEPUTY MAYOR (1) COUNCILLOR At Large (1) Ward 1 (2) Ward 2 (1) Ward 3 (1) Returning Officer – Vicki Bull **Township of Minden Hills** 7 Milne Street P.O. Box 359 Minden, ON K0M 2K0 Tel: 705-286-1260 ext. 585 Toll Free: 1-844-277-1260 www.mindenhills.ca Email: elections@mindenhills.ca

SCHOOL BOARD OFFICES FOR WHICH PERSONS MAY BE NOMINATED

Representing the County of Haliburton with the Trillium Lakelands District School Board. Nominations to be filed with the Clerk, Township of Dysart et al Returning Officer – Amanda Duncombe-Lee **Municipality of Dysart et al** 135 Maple Avenue P.O. Box 389 Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0 Tel: 705-457-1740 Email: *aduncombe-lee@dysartetal.ca* Website: www.dysartetal.ca	Representing Sector 1 – Counties of Haliburton, Northumberland, Peterborough, Hastings; Cities of Peterborough, Kawartha Lakes, and the Region of Durham of Conseil scolaire Viamonde. Nominations to be filed with the Clerk, City of Oshawa or a local Municipal Clerk/Returning Officer within Sector 1 with delegated authority. **The County of Haliburton Local Municipal Clerk(s)/Returning Officer(s) and municipal contact information is above.** **Or** **City Clerks Services:** **City of Oshawa** 50 Centre Street South, Oshawa, ON Toll Free: 1-800-667-4292 Phone: (905) 436-3311 Email: clerks@oshawa.ca Website:www.oshawa.ca

Local paramedics popped by the job fair at the high school last week, encouraging students to get involved in the industry. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Contractor Andrew Brown challenged students to build a specific shape with the materials provided. Brown noted that he has had success in working with students from past job fairs, and sees the value in being present within the school.

Job fair aims to keep kids local

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

Choosing a career is something that can happen at any stage in life.

That's why the local Home Builders' Association offers a job fair at the high school every year, to showcase the many opportunities held in the Haliburton Highlands.

Aggie Tose, the executive officer of Builders' Association, is one of the organizers of the popular event. With over 30 booths set up in the high school gymnasium, Tose noted that there was something for all interests and skillsets at the April 15 event.

"We want students to know that there are good, viable jobs in the county," she said. "You can go away, go to school, but come back to the community. You're always welcome back in the community."

While the Home Builders' Association is comprised largely of tradeswork, the event opens the gates to other industries, such as hospitality, childcare, local government, and the arts.

And to ensure that students of all ages were shown what's available locally, Tose coordinated buses to retrieve senior students from Archie Stouffer Elementary and Wilberforce Elementary, with J.Douglas Hodgson Elementary students walking down the hill to the high school. "They're so excited," said Tose. "It's a fun trip for them."

Emily Klose was once a student at Hal High, and it was during a job fair that she first spotted firefighting through Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources. Fast forward to present day, and Klose is now a fire crew leader with the organization, and living her dream job.

> ***"You can go away, go to school, but come back to the community. You're always welcome back in the community."***
>
> — Aggie Tose, Haliburton County Home Builders' Association

Above, Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation connected with students about what services they bring to the community last week.

Left, Shawn Walker and Emily Klose of MNR Fire took some time to connect with students at the job fair. Klose shared that she entered into her career via a job fair opportunity.

"A big part of what we're doing today is letting people know that we exist," said Klose, noting that their summer roster is full, but they're always looking for local interest. "I think what we do would be good for a lot of people."

Dawson Mueller was also a graduate of Haliburton Highlands Secondary School. When he was growing up, he thought his only real option was getting into the trades, but it wasn't necessarily something that he was drawn to. "I didn't like the idea of a 9-5 job," he said, "but I always enjoyed helping people, and knew I wanted to do something different."

Mueller is now a seasoned paramedic, and shared that he enjoys his job every day. "It's a great job to get into," he said.

Andrew Burtch was representing G.J Burtch Construction, and brought his two co-op students along for the day. He has the students through the high school placement program, and noted that the experience has been beneficial, for both staff and students.

"Some stay on for the summer, but for some of them, it's just great experience to have," he said. "They're so young still, but it's amazing to see how they change by being around adults in the field."

SUMMER GUIDE MAGAZINE IS COMING SOON!

To see your not-for-profit or community event listed at no charge in our Summer Guide Magazine, send an email to
HaliburtonSummerGuide@gmail.com
no later than Wednesday May 6

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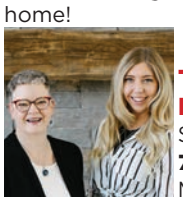

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He is an agent who is client focused first and foremost. His kindness and care for us as people did not go unnoticed. Selling our home wasn't about chalking up another sale for him, but rather helping us end up in the best position for us. There are not many people left in this world who go out of their way for others, but Vince is definitely one of those people. We will forever be grateful for his services, and would highly recommend him to anyone looking for an agent. Of all the agents we've worked with buying and selling homes over the years, Vince is by far the best we have encountered! **-Kerrie M.** *16 Anson St, Minden*

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debra.lambe@gmail.com

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Voices and Votes reschedules in light of ongoing emergency

Due to the State of Emergency and flood condition in Minden Hills, the Haliburton Highlands Healthy Democracy Project has decided to postpone the session that was planned for Tuesday April 21. The new date and time is May 11 from 7 - 8:30 p.m. in the same location; the Stanhope Fire Fighters Community Hall in Algonquin Highlands.

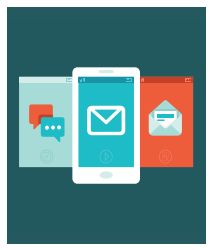
The final "Voices and Votes" session, *Understanding Campaigns: How Success Happens* will feature Lauren Hunter, a seasoned campaign strategist of more than 20 municipal, provincial, and federal campaigns, sharing the building blocks of a successful campaign, whether that's for elected office or for a cause people care about, along with practical tips and tools.

This session is free, non-partisan, and open to all. Recordings and presentations from the first three sessions, focused on how government works, why it matters, how to get involved, and how to get inspired to step up for our community, are available on the HHHDP.ca website, and this session will also be recorded for those who can't attend in person.

"With the October 26, 2026 municipal election fast approaching and 25 elected roles across the Haliburton Highlands needing candidates, we are focused on giving people the information and inspiration they need to get involved," said Jessica Slade, a member of the HHHDP steering committee. "It's up to all of us, as a community, to strengthen our democracy together."

The HHHDP is a project of the Haliburton County Community Cooperative, and is grateful to be financially supported by HCDC (Local Initiatives Program) and the Telling Our Stories Speaker` Series. More information and registration is available at www.hhhdp.ca.

Submitted



Have a thought, comment or opinion you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to emily@haliburtonpress.com

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macmarplumbing@gmail.com

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Culture Days Festival coming to Haliburton County

Culture Days (culturedays.ca) is a nationwide celebration of arts and culture, inviting the public to get hands-on and behind-the-scenes to highlight the importance of arts and culture in our communities.

This year, the celebrations run from September 18 until October 4.

It's all about building connections, showcasing creativity, and making the arts accessible for everyone!

Culture Days hosts a variety of events and programs throughout Ontario and nationwide, inviting the public to participate and engage with local arts and culture in unique ways and show appreciation for arts and culture in our own communities. Events are free or pay-what-you-may and are intended to engage and expose people to local creativity and talent. Public showcases offer everyone the chance to explore creativity, be inspired by artistic expression, and join in imaginative, hands-on activities throughout the three-week festival.

The Haliburton Culture Days Hub will bring together a collection of local events that celebrate creativity, community, and cultural expression. While each activity stands on its own, this hub serves as a simple way to connect events and highlight the shared spirit of discovery and participation. Everyone is welcome!

To get involved, local artists, creators, community groups, and arts and cultural organizations are invited to take part. Everyone is encouraged to join in the celebration and list free activities, events, and programs that celebrate arts, culture, and creativity on the Culture Days website (culturedays.ca), beginning mid-May.

All it takes is the offer of one free or pay-what-you-may activity, plus a dash of audience participation and you can include your event or program in this nationwide festival.

The Arts Council Haliburton Highlands is hosting two online Culture Days Community Information Sessions to provide information and begin planning for the fall festival. Attendance is open and no RSVP is required. Simply visit the website – haliburtonarts.on.ca - for the online link to the sessions. Attend the upcoming date:

Friday, April 24, 2026, from 1-2 p.m.

If you are unable to attend either session, the session recording will be available on the Arts Council website.

"The Arts Council is proud to have Haliburton County designated as an official Ontario Culture Days Provincial Hub. This is a tremendous opportunity to showcase the amazing arts and cultural programs in Haliburton. We invite our creative community to join us as we shine a spotlight on Haliburton County's creativity and engaging programming this fall", said Sharon Kennedy, vice-chair, Arts Council Haliburton Highlands.

Provincial Festival Hubs function as regional festival anchors, produced through local partnerships, and serve as focal points for the Culture Days Festival. Key locations within the province that host a variety of arts and cultural activities in one region are chosen as provincial hubs by Ontario Culture Days and act as an anchor point for festival communications, marketing, and artistic programming. The Hubs also play a key role in strengthening local community partnerships, supporting the creative sector, and driving tourism.

Culture Days fosters local pride by showcasing the unique cultural identities of our communities, contributing to the arts and culture sectors' strength through greater public engagement and support for local artists, and boosting tourism by attracting visitors to explore local arts and culture experiences.

As a form of creative expression, the arts inspire, enrich and connect us all. They are also an integral part of healthy communities and local culture, reflecting our environment and our times.

The Arts Council Haliburton Highlands continues to be a catalyst for creativity, culture, and community - connecting people and ideas that make Haliburton a place where the arts truly thrive. Collaborating with partners on new initiatives and elevating community engagement will be the difference between simply living here and truly belonging to a vibrant community.

Join the celebration and help showcase Haliburton County's vibrant cultural community during Culture Days 2026.

Submitted by the Arts Council

Bobcaygeon Road reopens, bridges remain closed

Bobcaygeon Road closure due to washout has been repaired and the road is now open. This provides access via Scotch Line and Deep Bay Road.

The Sunnybrook Bridge and Loggers Crossing bridges remain closed for public safety.

Bobcaygeon Road Rebuild – Road is Open

The washout on Bobcaygeon Road has been repaired and that section of road is now reopened. Providing another detour route for access.

Bridge Closures

Bridges in downtown Minden remain closed until further notice as of April 20 this includes the bridge on Sunnybrook Bridge (Bobcaygeon Road vehicle and pedestrian bridge) and the Loggers Footbridge (pedestrian bridge).

Detour 1 Deep Bay Road, Detour details:
From Minden - Bobcaygeon Road to Deep Bay
Road to Highway 35
To Minden - Highway 35 to Bobcaygeon Road

Detour 2 Scotch Line Road. Detour details:
Bobcaygeon Road to Highway 35
Highway 35 to Scotch Line Road
Scotch Line Road to Bobcaygeon Road

Public Inquiries

We ask the community to direct flood related questions to the Public Inquiry Centre via email flood2026@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-1260.

If there is immediate danger anytime, contact 911

The Township of Minden Hills declared a State of Emergency on April 14, 2026 in response to the flood conditions and the escalating impacts to our community and infrastructure.Visit our website for up-to-date information at www.mindenhills.ca/news.

Submitted

Local Service Directory

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Looking for someone to clean 2 small cottages Sundays from 12-4pm. Starting the end of June to start of September. Happy to have a student as long as you are reliable. 10 minutes from Haliburton. Pay starting at $25/ hour. Please call/text **705-927-5801** if interested

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Support your community — apply for a census job! Statistics Canada is hiring in your community for the 2026 Census. Join the census team and help collect the information that shapes programs and services people rely on every day. Census jobs offer flexible, short-term employment and the chance to contribute to data collection activities. Census information is used to plan programs and services that support employment, education, public transportation and health care.
Key facts There are approximately 32,000 census jobs available across Canada. Pay is $25.87 per hour for non-supervisory positions and $31.32 per hour for supervisory positions, plus authorized expenses. The time frame for census jobs is between March and July 2026 depending on the position and location. You must be available to work flexible hours including days, evenings, and weekends. Join the 2026 Census team for meaningful work and community impact!
Apply now: census.gc.ca/jobs.

RECRUITING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES FOUNDATION

Looking to give back to your community? The HHHS Foundation is looking for leadership volunteers

HHHS Foundation is currently recruiting new members for its volunteer Board of Directors, and is particularly interested in hearing from people with experience and in any of the following areas:

- Board Governance
- Fundraising Experience
- Investment Management
- Accounting
- Legal
- Human Resources

Geographical diversity and previous board experience will also be taken into consideration. We are looking for people who are excited about fundraising and governance in rural, cottage-country health care. If you are enthusiastic about fundraising, community building and board governance and interested in building on our current fundraising efforts to optimize health services in the County, we would like to hear from you by May 15, 2026. New Directors will be appointed at the Annual General Meeting on June 25, 2026.

For further information and to express your interest, please visit our website or contact:
HR Committee Chair, at foundation@hhhs.ca or 705-457-1580
More information available at:
foundation.hhhs.ca/about

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton
Requires:

One (1) GIS Technician (12-month contract)
The GIS Technician is responsible for the development, compilation, and analysis of GIS data. The successful applicant will possess related post-secondary education and two (2) years of related experience. The hourly rate for this temporary CUPE unionized position is $35.06.
Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca
no later than **May 8, 2026, at 4:30pm**.

Two (2) GIS – NG911 Data Supports (17-week contract)
The GIS – Next Generation 911 Data Support position assists in the development, validation, and maintenance of GIS datasets that support Next Generation 9-1-1 emergency services by refining civic address point data. Successful candidates will possess education or experience with GIS software such as ArcGIS Pro. The 2026 hourly rate for this temporary CUPE unionized position is $21.28.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca
no later than **April 30, 2026, at 4:30pm**.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for detailed posting and job description information.

We thank all who apply for this position; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.

In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

NOTICES

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES FOUNDATION

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, June 25, 2026 – 10:00 am
HHHS Minden Health Hub Auditorium
6 McPherson Street, Minden ON

Purpose of the Annual General Meeting: To receive the report of the Board of Directors, to receive the report of the Auditors & Financial Statements, the appointment of the Auditors, to conduct the election of the Directors and any other business as may properly come before the meeting.

The 30th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation will be held in-person. Based on capacity and the current protocols, the meeting could include an online option at short notice. Only members will have the opportunity to vote. RSVP is preferred.

For further information and to RSVP,
please contact the HHHS Foundation at 705-457-1580 or foundation@hhhs.ca

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Grandparents Harry and Peggy Morgan
and Dolores De Guzman
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Theodora Violet De Morgan
6lbs. 14 oz.
April 9, 2026

Proud Parents:
Rachel Morgan
Jenna De Guzman
Great-Grandma: Edna Morgan

OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

David Michael Stevens

Passed away peacefully at the Extendicare, Haliburton on Wednesday, December 24, 2025, at the age of 84.

Beloved husband of Sonia and loving father of Stefanie. Dear brother of Connie Graham (Don), uncle to Michael Graham and Geoffrey Graham. Son of the late Andy and Ada Stevens.

Dave was the owner of the Beaverbrook Golf Course in Minden for many years.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, K0M 2K0 on Friday, May 1, 2026 from 4:00 until 6:00 pm. Cremation has taken place.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family.

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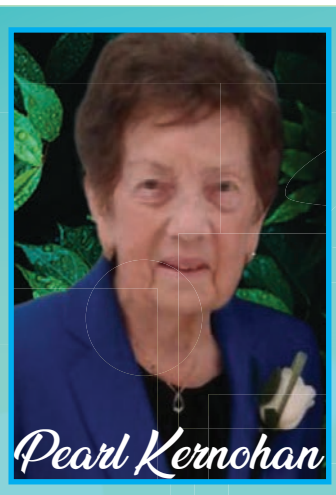

In Loving Memory of
Pearl Kernohan

August 14, 1931 – April 20, 2022

To our Loving Wife, Mother and Grandmother

A silent thought, a silent tear,
a longing wish that you were here.
There are no words except to say,
we love and miss you every day.

Deeply loved and forever in our hearts,
Love Ivan Kernohan and Family

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SUDOKU

2				9			4	
	3			5	1			
				6			5	
		6			5			
	2							3
7			8	4				6
						6		5
		3	6				9	
				7	2			8

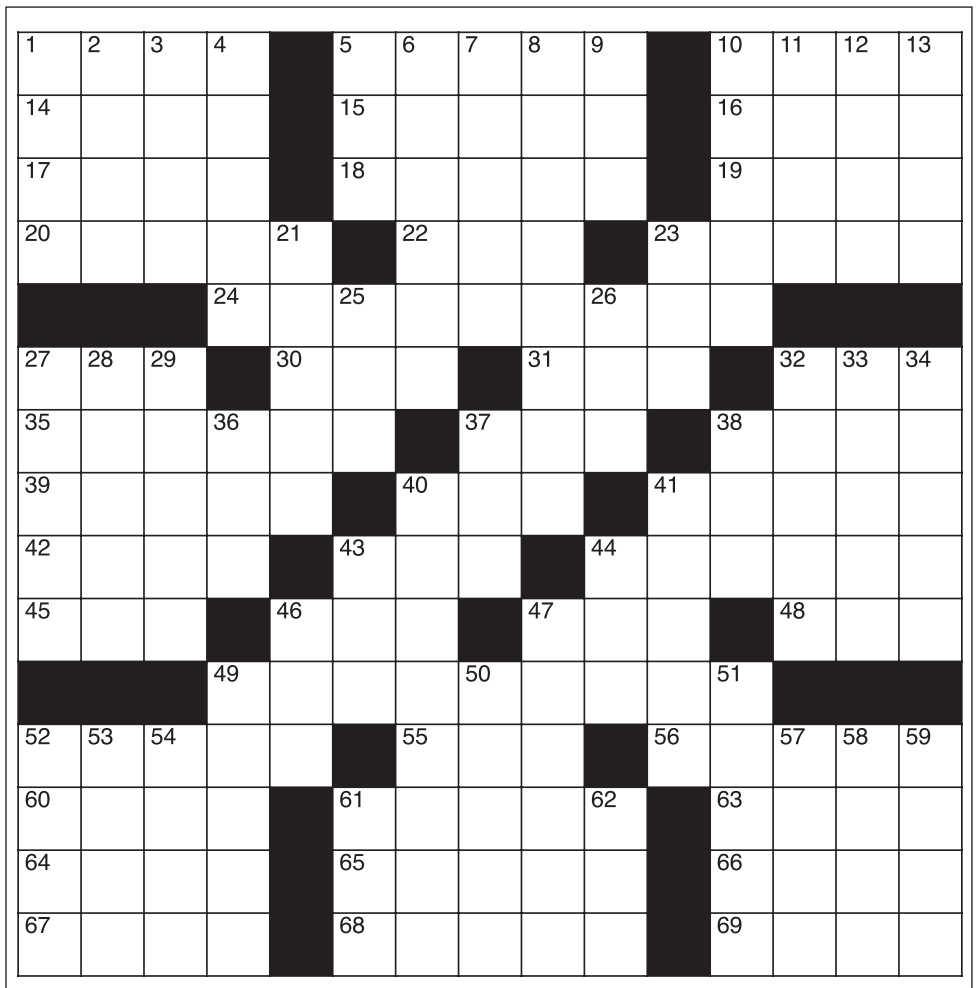
Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 17



CLUES ACROSS
1. Greek goddess of marriage
5. Tropical American blue jay-like bird
10. Abba __, Israeli politician
14. Dark olive black
15. Light, crinkled fabric
16. Notre Dame has a golden one
17. Leaked blood
18. Confronted
19. Negligible amount
20. Facilitated
22. Hill or rocky peak
23. Minneapolis suburb
24. Songs to one's beloved
27. Brake horsepower
30. Angry
31. Children's game
32. Spelling is a type of one
35. Obtained in return for labor
37. Indicates center
38. Chinese dynasty
39. Old World buffaloes
40. Slang for time off
41. Fabric
42. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
43. Defunct regional economic organization
44. Philly footballers
45. Female sibling
46. Peter Griffin's daughter
47. Digital audiotape
48. Insecticide
49. Scientific instrument
52. Pages may be dog-__
55. Israeli city __ Aviv
56. Type of sword
60. Middle Eastern military title
61. Wise individuals
63. French Polynesian island Bora __
64. Popular shoe type
65. One of 50
66. Divulge a secret
67. Dish of cooked meat mixed with potatoes
68. Actress Zellweger
69. Romanian city

CLUES DOWN
1. Greek cupbearer of the Gods
2. Ancient Syrian city
3. Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
4. Range of mountains
5. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
6. Spoke
7. City in Georgia
8. Theatrical
9. CNN's founder
10. Icelandic poems
11. Bjorn __, tennis player
12. Bowfin genus
13. One point north of northeast
21. Political divisions in ancient Greece
23. Electroencephalograph
25. Cool!
26. Male parent
27. Where some gymnasts work
28. Capital of Vietnam
29. Sailboats
32. Shelter (Scottish)
33. Completed
34. Discharge
36. Arrest
37. Partner to cheese
38. Coffee receptacle
40. Stagnate
41. Satisfies
43. Snakelike fish
44. Consume food
46. Type of school
47. Erase
49. Inform
50. Girl's given name
51. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
52. Every one of two or more things
53. Northern India city
54. Seventeenth stars in a constellation
57. Weapon
58. Amounts of time
59. Isodor __, American Nobel physicist
61. Soviet Socialist Republic
62. Witness

Answers on page 217

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School tax going up:

Board says further cuts would damage system

by PETER DOWNS
Staff Reporter

To avoid damaging an education system they say has already been stretched to the limit by deep funding cuts, Haliburton school trustees have voted to go to taxpayers for more money one last time.

In what will likely be its final budget before being dismantled in the fall, the board decided on Tuesday night to hand property owners a tax hike of about 1.7 per cent.

The $17.4-million budget also cuts $27,000 from capital improvements planned by county schools and adds in about $25,000 to greatly expand the high school's Internet capabilities.

Already facing a provincial funding cut of $272,000, the board's financial troubles were compounded two weeks ago when it learned it would have to refund $149,000 to Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve because of a tax appeal settled by the municipality of Dysart.

However, a surplus of close to $195,000 identified by the board's auditor means trustees didn't have to go to taxpayers with the full brunt of the grant reduction and the tax rebate.

The surplus stems from savings in salaries and benefits the board realized through the Social Contract.

But the moderate tax increase adopted by the board was not big enough for four of its 15 trustees, who voted against the budget.

Trustees Craig Pettit, Bryan Kernohan, Trevor Pawson and Wendy Ladurantaye urged their colleagues to raise taxes even higher to make sure the county's school system is in better shape going into amalgamation next fall.

"I believe we damaged the system last year and I won't approve a budget that doesn't put money back," said Pettit. "... If the government chooses to abandon education, that's its decision. There's nothing saying

See TRUSTEES page 6

CELEBRATION OF MUSIC: St. George's Anglican Church in Haliburton hosted the 50-voice Mohawk College Singers Saturday evening. An appreciative audience packed the Legion Hall to listen to traditional and contemporary vocal and organ music. Proceeds from the evening will support church restoration.

Shooting from the lip

■ *Riding's federal candidates take aim on gun control at public debate*

by MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

In the parking lot of the West Guilford Community Centre on Sunday, there were a lot of vehicles with a bumper sticker which read "Remember Bill C68 when you vote."

Inside the hall, the owners of those vehicles were putting the words into action as they asked three candidates in the upcoming federal election exactly where they stood on the Liberal government's new gun control law.

Not unexpectedly, it was the riding's Liberal Member of Parliament who was in for the most heat at Sunday's meeting of the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association. John O'Reilly, a gun owner, hunter and critic of the law, was part of a delegation to Washington when the final vote on Bill C68 was tabled. His promise to vote against it wasn't put to the test because he wasn't there for the vote – a fact very much on the minds of many of the 70 hunters and fishermen gathered at the community centre.

The vote in favour of the Bill was 192 to 63, and even if the members of the Washington delegation had been able to vote, O'Reilly said, the vote would have been 197-64. "It was going to be won by those who feel crime control and gun control are the same."

He sees the issue as a struggle between urban and rural Canadians whose opinions, and experience with guns, strongly differs. Even in a poll of his own riding, there were 49.6% in favour of the gun control bill and 49.3% against it. And while as a gun owner himself, O'Reilly has said the law targets innocent citizens, he said that as a representative of a political party, it's not always "recommended" to go against that party.

"Politics is a team sport and scoring a goal on your own net is not the way to get your point across," he said. "It's not the coach you have to worry about, it's the other players on the bench."

O'Reilly said when the whip of the Reform Party voted with the

See FEDERAL page 4

PRESERVING THEIR INHERITANCE: During the Loop Troupe's performance of "Strawberry Jam" Sunday in Wilberforce, Hilda Clark, left, and Elsie Lewis prepare to stow the body of their deceased father in the deep freeze for several months to avoid paying a penalty on their inheritance. It sounds more grim than it actually was -- the audience thought it was hilarious. For more on the troupe's plays, see Page 19.

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